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PHOTOS:

UNHCR/F. Courbet;
ACT/P. Jeffrey;
CLWR/A. Aguillon,
J. Ardon, T. Brook,
J. Clark, T. Gingrich,
H. Pryse, K. Schroeder;
Canadian Foodgrains Bank/
A. Thorsteinsson
Lutheran World Federation/
M. Brown, H. Patterson;
Lutheran World Relief/
L. Hyatt
Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission
Inspired by God’s love for humanity, CLWR challenges the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty.

As a specialized agency of the Lutheran community in Canada, CLWR offers Canadians opportunities to serve the needs of others.

Our Vision
A world where people live in justice, peace and dignity, united in diversity, and empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

Our Values

PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE—In response to our faith, we as Christians are called to seek justice and show compassion.

CLWR responds to people who are suffering due to unjust political, economic and social situations.

DIGNITY—Created in God’s image, human beings are to be valued and treated with respect.

CLWR respects the dignity of each person and supports vulnerable communities to strive for justice, human rights and a sustainable future.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES—All that we have is a gift from God, entrusted to our nurture and care.

CLWR strives to responsibly steward those gifts in serving the needs of others.

PARTNERSHIP—Working in partnership is fundamental and essential to our work.

Mutuality, respect and participation characterize CLWR’s partnerships with churches, local organizations, funding agencies, international organizations, groups and individuals.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY—Operating and reporting with integrity promotes understanding and trust.

CLWR is committed to being accountable to partners, including donors, by acting in a transparent manner in all endeavours.

A woman hauls well water for her household at the Dadaab refugee camp.
It is with great pleasure and pride that we share with you the 2013-14 Annual Report for CLWR. With your support and prayers, CLWR continues to effectively and efficiently respond to the consequences and challenge the causes of poverty around the world.

During the past year CLWR adjusted its strategic direction, which resulted in an increased emphasis on refugees and internally displaced people, with continued support for small-holder farmers. We sharpened our focus geographically and took steps to work closely with long-standing partners in an effort to generate support from government sources.

The results have been impressive. I was filled with a strong sense of pride when visiting northern Jordan and meeting with Syrian refugees receiving CLWR support, with major assistance provided by the Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, in cooperation with The Lutheran World Federation. Children and their families who now have a secure, safe, dry and warm place to live in host communities. Jordanians and Syrians living and working side by side in pursuit of a common future, whether they might live in neighbouring countries or next door to one another. What a difference we are making in the lives of Syrian refugees and Jordanians!

To see the happy faces of Za’atari refugee camp residents, with sweaters from CLWR! What a huge difference this will make in the upcoming winter.

On behalf of my colleagues and me, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your support and the trust you place in CLWR to deliver programming and goods that are changing lives in Jordan and around the world. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve, in the name of Christ.

Robert Granke
Executive Director

This summer, in a family history session at a Busch reunion, I described how my forebears fled war-torn Germany in the 1700s. Eventually invited by Catherine the Great, they settled the steppes of southern Russia. Later, these German colonists began losing their rights. To escape persecution, my great-grandparents and their seven children left home to resettle in southern Saskatchewan in 1906.

Also this summer, I worshipped at Christ-Trinity Lutheran, Lethbridge, where my father had been pastor in the early 1950s. Memories flooded back of the refugee settlement work he did. Through the auspices of CLWR, Dad helped traumatized German immigrants settle through advocacy, translation and employment services. I spoke to one of these people—she was 17 in 1951 when her family arrived on the special train. Born in Russia, she and her family had lived through the Communist regime, the Nazi invasion, a German displaced persons camp, and finally—through the sponsorship of CLWR—arrived at a new life in Lethbridge.

And I remember my Edmonton congregation sponsoring a Vietnamese “boat family” and, at present, a Somali family, all through CLWR.

The grandson of refugees, the boyhood observer of CLWR’s work with Second World War refugees, and now on the board of that organization, supporting its work with refugees from Iraq, Eritrea, Burma—I have been part of the refugee phenomenon all my life.

This past year CLWR has made the decision to expand our work with refugees, both in Canada and abroad. Won’t you join CLWR in accompanying the journeys of thousands by responding to God’s call to show love and justice for today’s refugees?

Marcus Busch
President
2013-14 has been a year of transition for CLWR.

The winding down of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the transfer of its responsibilities into the newly formed Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) dramatically changed the landscape of Canada’s foreign aid and development programming by placing a greater emphasis on humanitarian assistance in crisis situations. In response, CLWR strategically shifted resources into programming for refugee assistance, a move that has, in many ways, taken the organization back to its roots.

While this year marked the end of our five-year programming agreement with CIDA, it marked the beginning of new ways for CLWR to leverage your support to obtain additional funding that has allowed us to reach and serve that many more people. Grants totalling $2 million from DFATD were received to assist those displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria through the distribution of emergency food and other supplies and materials that lessened the impact of winter conditions.

An emphasis on refugees, though, did not mean CLWR’s long-standing community development work was abandoned. During the year, work continued on several irrigation projects in the Afar National Regional State, Ethiopia, that is creating sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of small-scale farming families in a region that has increasingly been impacted by climate change.

2013-14 also marked CLWR’s continued commitment to other long-standing programs and partners. Among other things, this entailed support for the medical clinic and after-school programs operated by Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua, vocational training for Palestinian youth through The Lutheran World Federation’s Vocational Training Program, primary health care for people of the West Bank provided by Augusta Victoria Hospital and HIV and AIDS care and treatment programs overseen by 16 member churches of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA).

The following pages of this report expand upon these and other ways CLWR is, with your support and prayers, showing the love of Christ to thousands of people around the globe. Together, we are making a difference.
People like Ato Arbese Ahmed, his wife and eight children are finally putting down roots in their homeland—the Afar National Regional State of Ethiopia. Many years of persistent drought had turned them into nomads for eight or more months at a time. When water and forage could not be found, their livestock would be lost and their means of subsistence became government food aid.

But that is changing, in large part due to a CFWR-sponsored irrigation project under way in Aura, a region of Afar located about 500 km northeast of Addis Ababa. Organized through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and a local partner, Support for Sustainable Development, the project is transforming 150 hectares of arid land into productive small-plot farms that will support upwards of 450 households.

Ato’s family, and many others like them, are not just sitting back watching this happen. Construction of water diversion structures and canals, and the planting of thousands of tree seedlings are drawing upon local labour through a food-for-work program. This past year, Ato’s wife and about 250 others contributed 65,000 days of work in exchange for 400 metric tonnes of wheat. That wheat helped feed 3,500 people.

Ato, himself, has been able to learn valuable construction skills related to concrete mixing and pouring, and is now employed by the project. The extra income he earns means he is now able to send four of his school-aged children to school and make plans to build a better house for his family.

The Aura project is also building farming skill capacity through training in ploughing techniques and irrigation-assisted horticulture. A demonstration plot and nursery have been established to help introduce a variety of vegetable and cereal crops as well as fruit trees and fodder for livestock.

CFWR’s partnership with the people of Afar is reflective of our commitment to developing long-term relationships that lead to more sustainable livelihoods. The Aura irrigation project is one of three currently under way in the region. They are building on the knowledge and success gleaned from an initial project started in 2002.
Civil unrest and violent conflict continued to plague Syria in 2013-14. The United Nations now estimates over 3 million people have fled the country, 1.2 million of whom are children.

CLWR’s response to this crisis has been focused on Jordan, where over 600,000 Syrians have sought refuge. Some have settled in United Nations camps such as the one at Za’atari. Others have taken whatever shelter they could find in and around Jordanian towns. Included amongst them are Rahan, his wife and their two young daughters. Repeated bombings and threats of kidnapping forced them out of their home in Homs. They made a dangerous journey across the border into Jordan, where they now live in a converted shipping container.

In December 2013, CLWR received nearly $2 million in short-term funding from the Government of Canada for two projects to assist Syrian refugees living in the Ma’afarq Governorate, northern Jordan. Coupled with $80,000 in donations from Canadian Lutherans, the funding was used over the remaining winter months to cushion families from the cold. Through its partner, The Lutheran World Federation, CLWR supplied 2,000 households with gas heaters, warm clothing and carpets. Three hundred homes received various structural upgrades such as improved insulation, new windows and doors, and repaired or replaced sinks, toilets, taps and water tanks. Rahan’s family received a ventilation fan and a bathroom door—simple things that make their makeshift home more liveable. “We are,” said Rahan, “grateful for the help. Thanks be to God.”

At the request of the Jordanian government, some assistance was also directed to Jordanian citizens of host communities who were living in poverty.

The second project helped families struggling to meet basic needs. Beginning in January and continuing through to June, monthly food vouchers were distributed to 1,700 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian families.
We asked for them, but we had no idea how generous you were going to be. In September 2013, a call went out for gently used sweaters to be sent to the CLWR warehouse where they would be sorted, baled and sent off to the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan, hopefully in time for some of the 100,000 Syrians living there to be able to fend off colder winter temperatures.

By early November, boxes of sweaters from all across the country had swamped the warehouse and additional offsite storage was needed. Volunteers, mostly from Winnipeg and area Lutheran congregations but also some from the local Syrian community, began preparing for the shipments. The first left for Jordan on November 29. A second followed three weeks later.

When the third and final container left the warehouse in early February, the mountain of boxes that had accumulated over the previous four months was finally cleared. By the end of the campaign, 70,237 sweaters had been loaded into the three containers along with 3,662 toys, 1,834 hats and mittens, and 2,307 pneumonia prevention vests. About 3,000 sweaters and other items of donated clothing that did not make it into the shipment were gladly received by the Salvation Army.

Running in conjunction with the sweater appeal was a call for financial donations to assist with the purchase and distribution of shoes and other items of clothing for Za’atari refugees, many of whom had fled their homes in Syria with very few if any of their personal belongings. Through your generous gifts, CLWR was able to outfit 550 people with a new pair of shoes. A similar number of hygiene kits were distributed along with 2,200 two-piece track suits.

Perhaps more than any other CLWR program in recent years, the sweater campaign raised the profile of CLWR in the broader community. Stories about sweater collecting efforts appeared in several newspapers across the country and, in Winnipeg, the local CTV station’s morning show broadcast live from the CLWR warehouse.
SPORTS FACILITY OPENS IN BETHLEHEM

“Isn’t this how you build a homeland?” With those words, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb celebrated the opening of a new gymnasium complex at Bethlehem’s Dar al-Kalima College. Initiated by a generous gift from Calgary’s Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and augmented by other CLWR donors, the facility is bringing together girls and boys from different regional, cultural, religious and economic backgrounds.

The 1,300 square metre gymnasium also becomes the first indoor home of the Diyar Women’s Sports Centre. Active since 2008, the centre provides girls and women with much-needed opportunities to play sports, attend fitness classes and take part in community-awareness programs focusing on women’s health, nutrition and other gender equity issues.

Both the sports facility and the women’s sports program are managed by Diyar Consortium, a Lutheran-based organization. The sports program remains an ongoing priority project of CLWR.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM: BUILDING HOPE THROUGH SKILLS TRAINING

Getting an education is one thing but the ultimate challenge facing many students is finding that elusive first job in a field related to their training. Graduates of the Lutheran World Federation Vocational Training Program (VTP) in Ramallah are no exception but, with the help of CLWR, the task is being made that much easier.

Armed with a $33,000 matching grant from the Manitoba government, CLWR is supporting a two-year pilot project that is offering paid internships to facilitate the transition to permanent employment. In 2013, 28 graduates were assisted, 21 of them women. The target for 2014 is 35 students.

Success is being seen on several fronts. Placement rates for female graduates are beginning to match those of males. More significantly, the pilot project has demonstrated a willingness by employers to hire women in non-traditional fields such as carpentry and auto mechanics.

GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TO NICARAGUAN CHILDREN

In Nicaragua, sending children to school challenges many rural families as required school uniforms and supplies can cost the equivalent of a month’s wages. For several years, CLWR has been lessening this burden by enabling 250 children a year to enrol in the Christian Education Program of the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN), a partner church of Lutheran Church–Canada.

Provided with needed uniforms and supplies, children attend regular classes in the mornings and in the afternoon head to their local ILSN church where teachers and deaconesses offer homework support in math, Spanish and other subjects. Time is also set aside for Christian education and cultural activities.

In addition to the school program, CLWR provides funding for the ILSN medical clinic in Chinandega. The clinic, which operates one day a week, is staffed by a doctor and a dentist. On average, they see 40-45 patients each week and dispense common medications free of charge.
CLWR initiated three emergency relief appeals in 2013-14. Two addressed international crisis situations while the third related to a need here in Canada. In total, the three appeals raised $950,000.

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan tore across the Philippines affecting 14 million people, four million of whom were displaced from their homes. With donations received from Canadian Lutherans, CLWR was able to support efforts by an ACT Alliance partner, USA-based Lutheran World Relief, to address both immediate and long-term needs of people from Cebu and Leyte provinces. These included construction of emergency water and sanitation systems and distribution of solar-powered lamps, building materials to reconstruct damaged homes, as well as vouchers to replace lost household items. A cash-for-work program that employed local people to clear debris also put much-needed income into the hands of storm-affected populations. By May 2014, beneficiaries of these various efforts numbered over 20,000.

Appeals were issued in the summer and fall of 2013 to address the plight of over two million Syrians who fled to Jordan to escape the civil war that continues to ravage their homeland. Funds received enable CLWR to leverage additional financial resources from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. Details of programming supported by these funds is found elsewhere in this report.

Closer to home, a June 2013 appeal to assist those impacted by flooding in southern Alberta raised $165,000. These funds have supported community relief work carried out by Lutheran congregations in High River and Medicine Hat, as well as clean-up and rebuilding efforts coordinated by Mennonite Disaster Service.

CLWR’s capability to respond to overseas emergency situations is greatly facilitated through its continuing membership in ACT Alliance, a Geneva-based ecumenical coalition of over 100 churches and church-based organizations.
2013-14 was a year like no other for the We Care program as staff at our Winnipeg warehouse coordinated seven overseas shipments. Almost 82,000 kilograms of commodities were handled. This represented an increase of nearly 100 percent over the previous year.

Increased activity was largely attributed to the Sweaters for Syrian Refugees campaign. Between the end of November and early February, three containers were packed and shipped to Amman, Jordan. Containers were also sent to Jerusalem, El Salvador, Mauritania and Tanzania.

In addition to the traditional We Care kits and quilts, shipments this year were augmented by 6,000 kilograms of soup mix donated by Ontario Christian Gleaners and various school supplies and work boots supplied by Compassionate Resource Warehouse.

Our Winnipeg warehouse continues as the primary operations base for the We Care program, where five shipments were completed. In May, volunteers from Lower Mainland churches continued their support for BC Baling Days, and in August, volunteers gathered in Kitchener for the second year in a row to assist with Southern Ontario Baling Days. Lutherans and their friends in both locales prepped for and loaded a 20-foot shipping container and saw it on its way overseas.

CLWR extends its gratitude to the hundreds of people across Canada who make up the We Care Network. They supply us with kits and quilts along with financial donations that defray the cost of overseas shipping. Also making this program possible are Home Hardware, Ridsdale Transport, Arnold Bros. Transport Ltd. and Gardewine North through their gracious provision of free shipping services within Canada.

4,082
Baby bundles shipped

13,710
Quilts and blankets shipped

5,973
Kits shipped

$541,082
Value of commodities shipped

Children have school bags and supplies after receiving Learning and Living kits in a recent shipment to Zambia.
During 2013-14, CLWR worked with sponsorship groups in Ontario and all four western provinces, assisting them in the process of welcoming refugees to Canada. This work is made possible through CLWR’s role as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder within the Canadian government’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program.

Amongst new arrivals this year were Navid and Kamelia Farahmand and their son Eli. The young couple was unsure of what to expect in this new country, but one thing was for certain: they were safe. Being in Canada presented hope for a new life after having fled from Iran to Turkey due to religious persecution for converting to Christianity.

In Turkey, they waited two years before receiving the happy news that they would be resettled in Kitchener, Ontario, where they would be sponsored by Pastor Robin Korsch, his wife Tara and several other families from Grace Lutheran. For Pastor Korsch, refugee sponsorship felt like a “natural thing to do as a Christian and it’s completely a part of the mission of the church. It has given much joy to the congregation. We’re very happy because we know what a positive impact it makes on the church at large.”

The Farahmands are doing well in their new home. Kamelia has been attending English as an Additional Language classes full-time and hopes to resume her career as an architect. Navid also hopes to resume his career as an electrician, but in the meantime, he is working full-time.

“We needed help and they helped us with everything… We are comfortable and safe.” L-R: Kamelia and Navid Farahmand, with their son Eli; Pastor Robin Korsch and his wife Deaconess Tara Korsch at Grace Lutheran Church, Kitchener

The Farahmands came to Canada through the Blended Visa Office Referred Initiative, a cost-sharing program that makes it easier for churches to get involved in refugee sponsorship. Refugees enrolled in this program already have refugee recognition through a Canadian visa office overseas and are ready to travel to Canada once they have a sponsor.

For more information about how CLWR can assist your congregation to participate in this valuable work, contact the staff in one of our regional offices. They are located in Vancouver and Kitchener-Waterloo.
Experiencing God’s Love First-Hand

CLWR’s mandate includes providing opportunity for the agency’s supporters to experience first-hand the impact of overseas programming. This past year, two Global Encounter experiences were organized.

May 2013 saw 20 people depart for Lima, Peru, as part of CLWR’s first-ever Global Encounter offered for young adults. Organized and led by Rev. Tyler Gingrich, CLWR Youth Engagement Coordinator, the trip represented one of many ways CLWR has begun to foster an intentional connection between the agency and the younger demographic segments of our churches. Applicants were chosen for more than just their age. Each was involved in their own congregation, demonstrated an interest in international development and a willingness to share talents during the trip, such as leading prayer and offering reflections. Equally important was their commitment to post-trip sharing of their experiences within their local communities.

The itinerary included visits to projects supported by CLWR and its Peruvian partner Diaconia, that are training native farmers in areas of organic farming practices, safe water infrastructure development and the use of organic biocides. Participants also interacted with youth enrolled in Lutheran-sponsored programs in and around Lima.

In February 2014, 38 people, including CLWR executive director Robert Granke, participated in a two-week visit to Palestine and Israel. Participants met CLWR programming partners at the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, The Lutheran World Federation’s Vocational Training Program in Beit Hanina and Ramallah, and Dar al-Kalima High School and College in Bethlehem. There were also opportunities to tour the old city of Jerusalem and visit historic religious sites of the West Bank.

Historically, Global Encounters have been offered on a biennial schedule. To plan joining in the next time, watch for details in future issues of CLWR’s News Briefs. To have News Briefs delivered to your electronic mailbox, visit us at www.clwr.org and register for your free subscription.
Where our support came from

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE: $7,212,818

- Donations from congregations, individuals and agencies (62%)
- Other (1%)
- Government and other grants (37%)

Where your support is at work

- Latin and Central America (10%)
- Asia (11%)
- Africa (36%)
- Middle East (43%)

What we did with your support

- Global support (82%)
- Education and community relations (11%)
- General administration (5%)
- Youth / Young Adult Engagement Strategy (2%)

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations:

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Lutheran Church—Canada
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation
- The Lutheran World Federation
- ACT Alliance
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
A cross Canada, individuals and groups within congregations actively participate and support CLWR’s mission and vision. Here are a few ways they are putting faith into action.

• organizing drives to assemble We Care kits
• starting a One Community Project within their congregation
• initiating a discussion about refugee sponsorship
• staying informed about the work of CLWR by subscribing to News Briefs, subscribing to the CLWR YouTube channel, or by following CLWR on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
• supporting the work of CLWR with a financial donation or planned gift

CLWR was incredibly blessed this year with the gift of time from volunteers. Compared to last year, volunteer hours were up by almost 50 percent due to the large number of people from Winnipeg and area congregations, as well as members of Winnipeg’s Syrian community, who assisted with the Sweaters for Syrian Refugees campaign. Volunteers also supported the ongoing work of our warehouse staff by helping sort, pack and load We Care kits and quilts for overseas shipment. They also assisted head office staff to process and receipt donations.

Many hours of volunteer time go unaccounted, but the ones we are aware of totaled 4,286, the equivalent of almost three full-time staff people. CLWR extends its appreciation to all those who extended their gift of time and resources during 2013-14.

To learn more about how you can share your gifts to lift up the work of CLWR, please call 1.800.661.2597, visit www.clwr.org or send an email to clwr@clwr.mb.ca.
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2013–2014

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